

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7, and 9-11 are currently amended. Claims 5, 13, and 14 have been cancelled from the application. No new claims are added. Support for the foregoing amendment can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0186298). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentable over this reference. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Claim 1 has only been amended to incorporate the limitations of objected to claim 5, thereby placing it in condition for allowance. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 1. Object to claims 9 and 11 have also been rewritten in independent form. Pending rejections have been rendered moot and therefore should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2009

By: /Timothy D. MacIntyre/
Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42,824

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/dec